

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF OCT 14

1. SUMMARY: AT OCTOBER 14 PRESS CONFERENCE FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT COMMENTED ON VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN BORDER DISPUTE, COLOMBIAN EX-FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTACK ON CIA, AND FORTHCOMING QUITO OAS MINISTERS' MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHACHT SAID THE VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN BORDER TALKS WERE IN A SUSPENDED STATE SINCE, IN HIS OPINION, THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROBLEM AND DISCUSS IT WITH SCHACHT SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE. THE QUESTION CONCERNING THE TALKS AROSE AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLICATION OCT. 14 IN THE NATIONAL PRESS OF A MANIFESTO ISSUED BY 400 RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS IN WHICH THEY CHARGED VENEZUELA HAS ALWAYS GIVEN UP LAND TO COLOMBIA AND CALLING FOR VENEZUELA NOT TO HAND OVER A SQUARE MILLIMETER MORE OF LAND OR SEA. SCHACHT SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPECTED THE OPINION OF THE RETIRED OFFICERS BUT DID NOT SHARE THEIR OPINION BECAUSE THE GOV HAD NEVER CONSIDERED TAKING A POSITION IN THE TALKS WITH COLOMBIA WHICH WOULD BE HARMFUL TO VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. CONCERNING COLOMBIAN EX-FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA'S
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DENUNCIATION OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA, SCHACHT SAID

VASQUEZ OBVIOUSLY HAD MORE FREEDOM TO SPEAK ABOUT THE CIA THAN HE. SCHACHT COMMENTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT "AS A VENEZUELAN, AS A LATIN AMERICAN, AND AS A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD" HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE CIA'S ACTIVITIES.

4. ASKED ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING OAS MINISTER'S MEETING IN QUITO, SCHACHT SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROA AS WELL AS OTHER LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE UN. SCHACHT ADDED HE BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD PROSPECT THE QUITO MEETING WILL HAVE "POSITIVE" RESULTS. SCHACHT NOTED HE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.
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